

B4 --Fig. 2 shows an installation having several devices. The installation includes a shredder unit 3, whereby the devices 1 are positioned in parallel so that they can be supplied simultaneously and/or sequentially by the shredder unit 3.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 23 and 33 as follows:

B5 23. (Amended) A method for the treatment of contaminated material comprising feeding said contaminated material via an input unit to a conveyor system extending through a treatment chamber which slants upward in the conveyor transport direction and which comprises first treatment zone adjacent the lower end of the treatment chamber and second treatment zone extending from the first treatment zone to the upper end of the treatment chamber, heating and treating the contaminated materials in said treatment chamber, and discharging the treated materials via a discharge element, wherein said contaminated material is moistened in a liquid reservoir in said first treatment zone by liquid present in the contaminated material or water added from outside the treatment chamber, the liquid in said liquid reservoir being to a temperature lower than the boiling point of water, and thereafter heating the contaminated material in said second treatment zone at least partially to a temperature above the boiling point of water wherein the input unit and discharge element are closed off in order to build up steam pressure to disinfect the contaminated material.

33. (Amended) An apparatus for treating contaminated material, said apparatus comprising a treatment chamber which slants upward from a lower inlet end to an upper discharge end and which comprises first heating zone adjacent the lower end of the treatment chamber and a second heating zone extending from the first treatment zone to the upper end of the treatment chamber, an input unit and said inlet end for introducing contaminated material to be treated into the treatment chamber, a discharge element at said discharge end for discharging treated material from said treatment chamber, a conveyor system for conveying material to be treated through said treatment chamber, means for moistening contaminated material in said first heating zone, means for heating liquid in said first heating zone to a temperature below the boiling point of water, and means for heating moistened contaminated material in said second heating zone at least partially to a temperature above the boiling point of water and close off the input unit and the discharge element to generate steam pressure to disinfect the contaminated material.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please find attached a Submission of Proposed Drawing Changes.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 23-24, 26-33, and 35-47 remain in this application, and are submitted for reconsideration.

The claims have been amended to include a method step or apparatus element, which provides for closing the input unit and discharge element in